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## EVENTS OF THE DAY

IN CHARGE OF  
GARNET ISABEL PELTON

**THE POPE'S PEACE NOTE.**—Until the United States entered the war, the President and the Pope were the only personages of large authority left in the neutral world. The Pope, now the outstanding figure in the small fraction of the world not at war, in a lofty message to the belligerent nations, has voiced the world desire for peace. His message opens with an eloquent description of the horrors of war and an appeal to Europe to save itself from suicide. Then come certain definite suggestions: reciprocal agreement for decrease of armaments; an international court of arbitration with power to enforce its decisions; and freedom of the seas. In regard to the settlement of territorial claims, the message urges: First, a "reciprocal restitution of territory at present occupied" (that is, that the Germans should evacuate Belgium and northern France, though he does not mention an indemnity for their devastation, and that the Allies should restore to Germany her colonies). Second, that the more complex territorial questions (such as the counter-claims of Austria and Italy to the Trentino and Trieste, of Germany and France to Alsace-Lorraine, of Germany and Russia to partitioned Poland, of the Balkan States, and of Turkey and ravaged Armenia be "examined by the parties in conflict with a conciliatory disposition, taking into account . . . the aspirations of the population . . . adjusting private interests to the general good of the great human society." The Pope then appeals for an early termination "of the terrible struggle which more and more appears a useless massacre." The dignified sincerity of this message would seem to free it from any suspicion of Teutonic influence. Its high source, the fact that in all the belligerent armies there are millions of adherents to the Catholic faith, and the world cry for peace should ensure it not only respectful attention but also early fruitage.

**THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.**—The only answer thus far to the Pope's message has been President Wilson's. The President's address to the Senate last January agreed in many fundamentals with this recent papal note. Since then, however, the German Government (in which the German people have no deciding voice) in several instances has treacherously broken faith with us, has everywhere intrigued, has spurned international laws to which it had subscribed, has ignored

the sacred rights of the Red Cross, of which it is a member, and has broken the underlying laws of humanity. The President, after courteously acknowledging the Pope's message, without going into any details, merely answers that the word of the present rulers of Germany cannot be taken "as a guarantee of anything that is to endure unless explicitly supported by conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves;" that "agreements . . . made with the German Government, no man, no nation, could now depend on." This fearless note has resulted in a storm of angry resentment by the Germans, and delighted commendation by the Allies, being officially approved by Great Britain.

THE "I. W. W."—The Industrial Workers of the World, a revolutionary organization, which acknowledges no allegiance to any government, which proclaims that the question of right or wrong does not concern it, whose object (the destruction of capitalism and the abolition of the wage system), it is determined to achieve by any means fair or foul—and the means are chiefly foul—this organization chooses this hour of trial to create endless havoc in our country. It is using its energies to destroy the resources the country especially needs for war. By instigating strikes among ignorant aliens, it has succeeded in closing one-fourth of our copper mines. Using its favorite method of sabotage, it has driven nails into fruit trees, thrown scraps of iron into harvesting machines, poisoned live stock, and set fire to wheat fields. It is not surprising that in certain western cities, where I. W. W. agitators have stirred up strife, they, with their swarms of ignorant, alien, criminal followers, have been summarily deported by the indignant citizens, and that one of their chief agitators and officers, Frank Little, a defamer of the government, was taken by night and lynched. The Attorney-General has instituted proceedings against the criminal activities of this organization. One thing to be said in its favor is that it has espoused the cause of the lowest, unskilled, most exploited worker, a class neglected both by organized labor and by society in general.

THE JAPANESE MISSION.—In August, still another representation from our Allies, a Japanese mission, visited our government. This mission did not come, however, to discuss any definite war program, or to borrow money, or to settle certain difficult questions pending between the United States and Japan. Its object was purely "to promote the traditional friendship between the United States and Japan, and to draw the countries nearer together on the basis of good understanding."